

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are currently pending in the present application, with Claim 18 being canceled.

The Examiner rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuda (U.S. Patent No. 5,412,380). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amended claim. Applicants have canceled Claim 18.

In view of the above, given that each of the presently pending claims in this application is in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 535352002200. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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